Words Are CATegorical





To Root, to Toot, to Parachute





What Is a Verb?

by Brian P. Cleary

illustrated by Jenya Prosmitsky

To Root, to Toot, to Parachute



What Is a Verb?



To Mary Kate, Jack, and Colin—
three "action" kids —B.P.C.

To my sister, Margarita
—J.P.





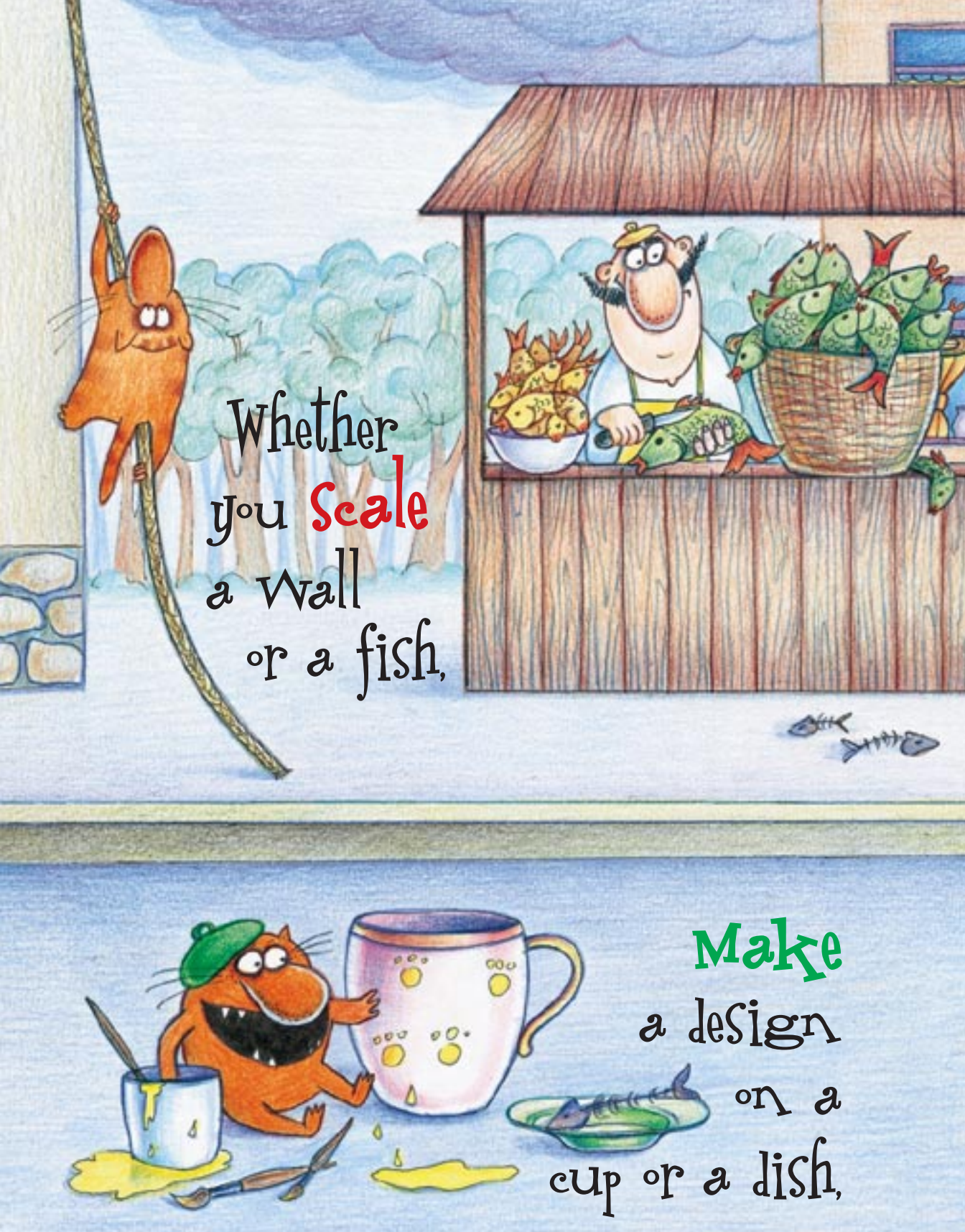
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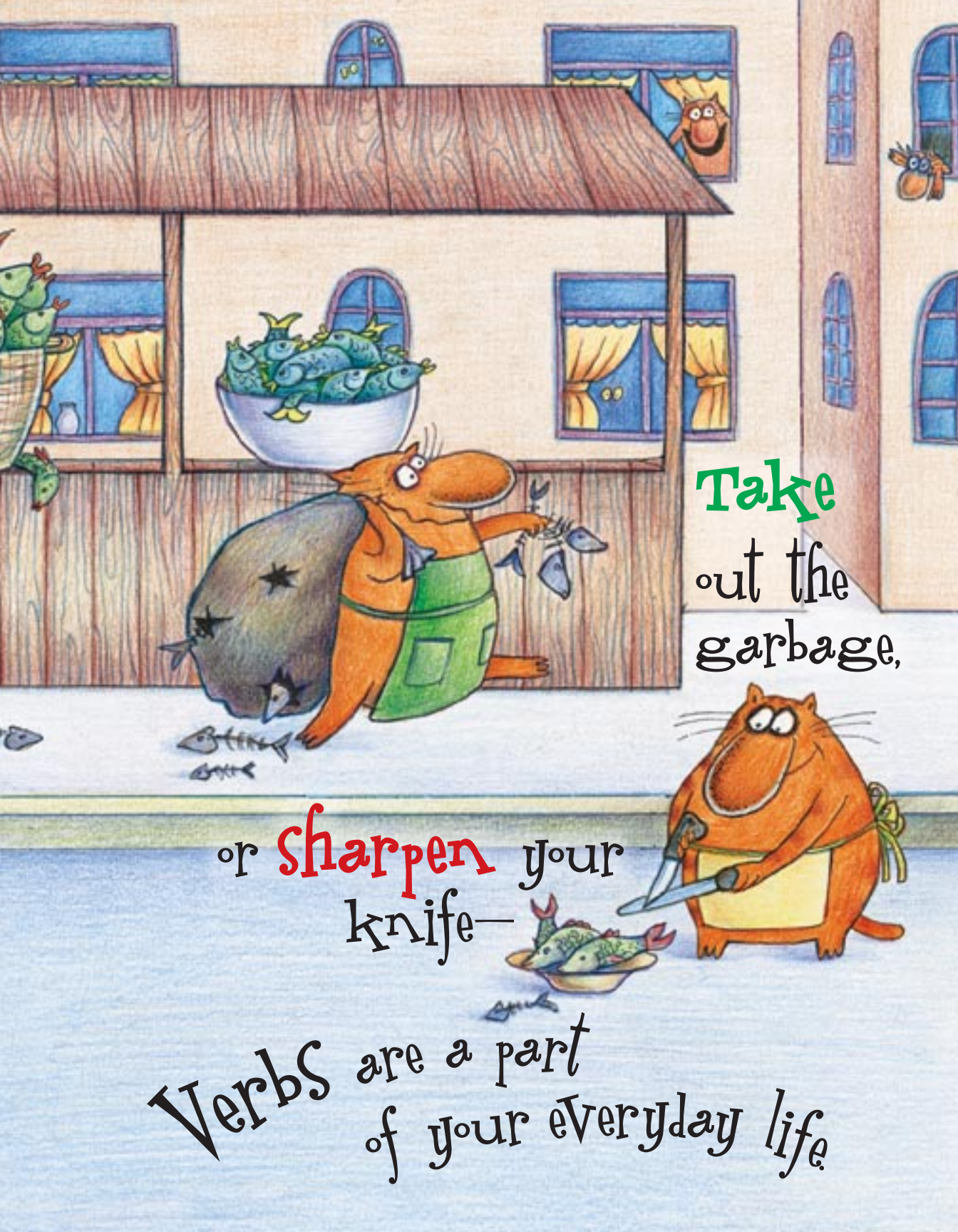
What Is a Verb?

by Brian P. Cleary

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Whether
you Scale
a Wall
or a fish,
Make
a design
on a
cup or a dish,


Take
out the
garbage,
or sharpen your
knife—
Verbs are a part
of your everyday life



To root,

to

toot,



to

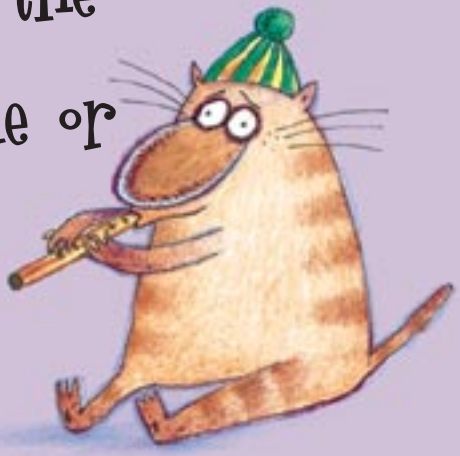
parachute,

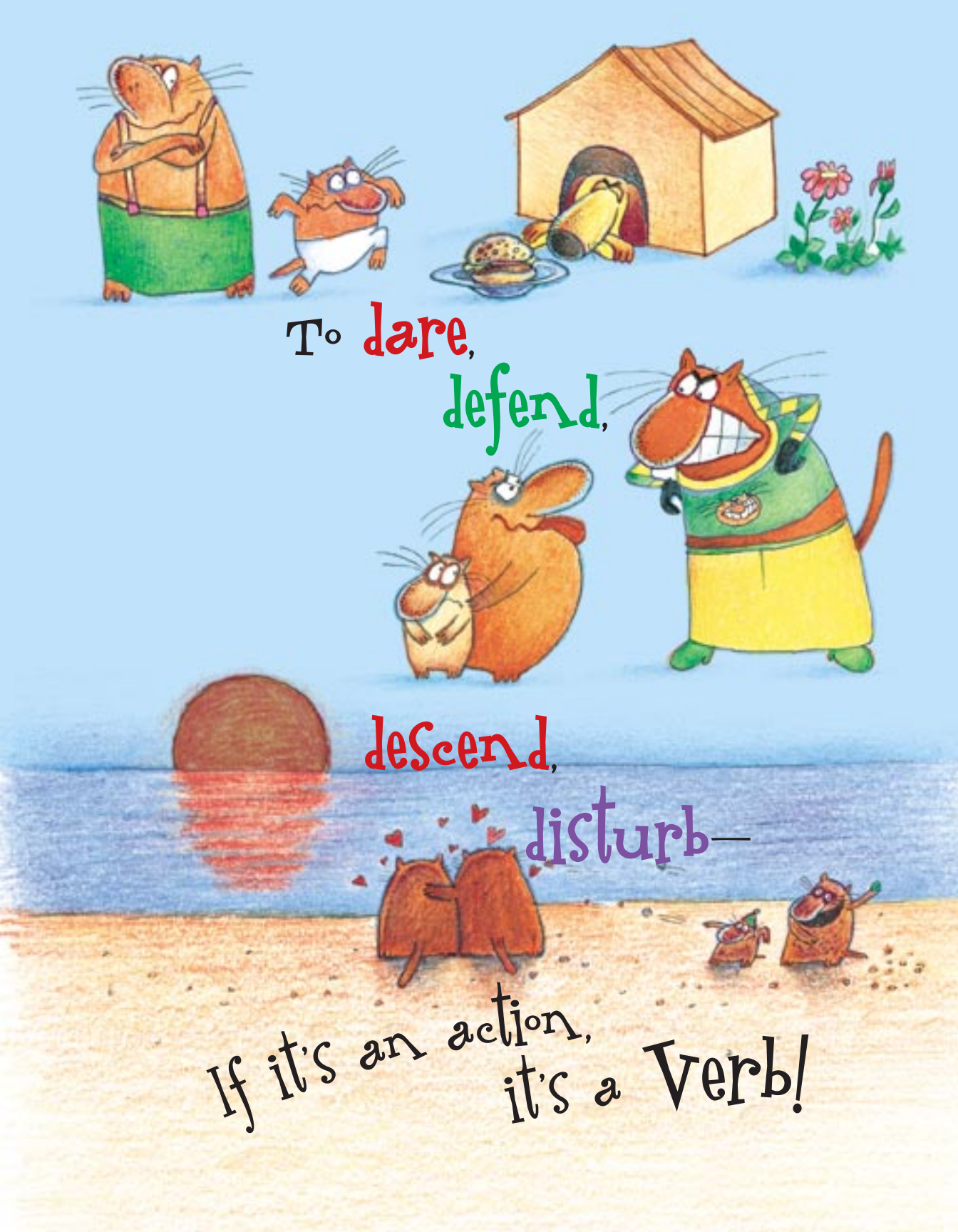


To play the

flutophone or

flute,




To dare,
defend,
descend,
disturb—
If it's an action,
it's a Verb!

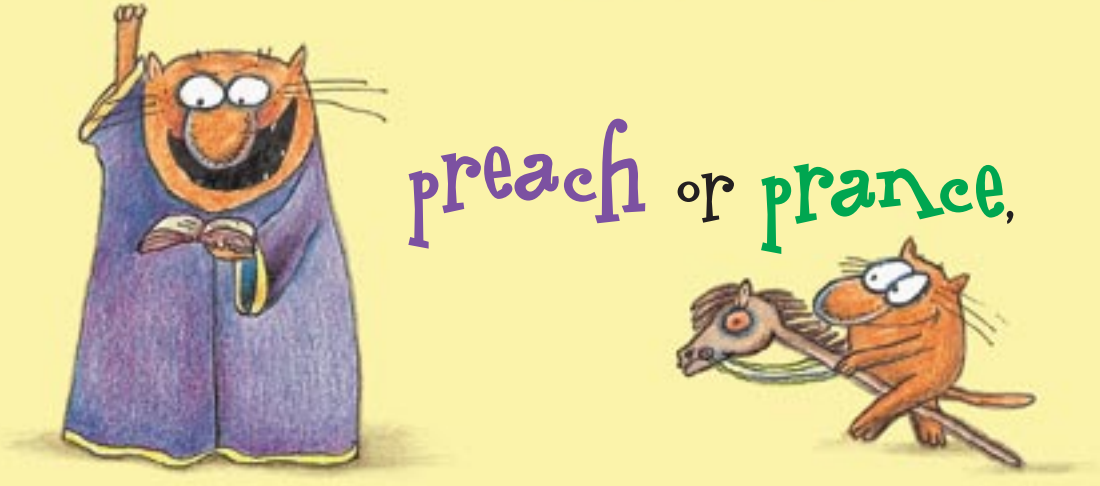
Verbs are words like sing and dance,



Pray or practice,



preach or prance,

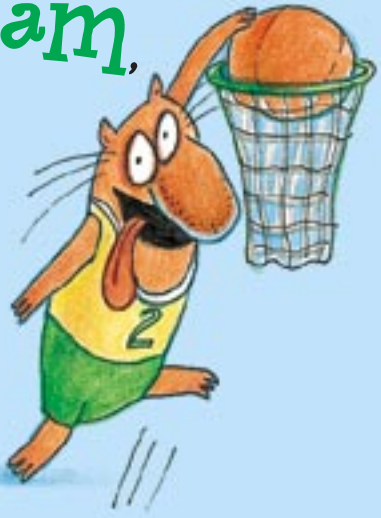


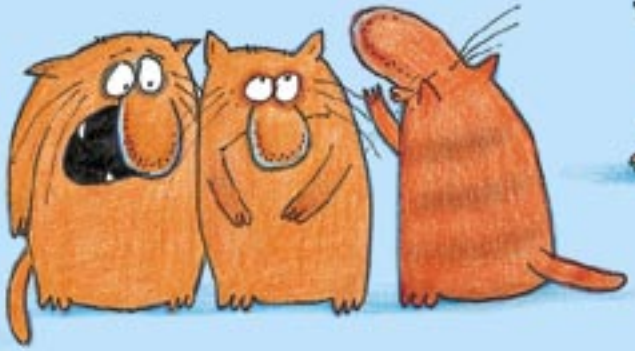


Toss and tumble, jump

and jam,

Whine and whisper,





sleep and slam.





So are holler, help,
and hold,



Whack and stack and pack
and fold,



Fix and
finish,



load and lift,



Hurry, scurry,
shake, and sift.





So take a present,

Send your thanks,





Pull a tooth,
or pull some pranks.



Blow

a bubble,

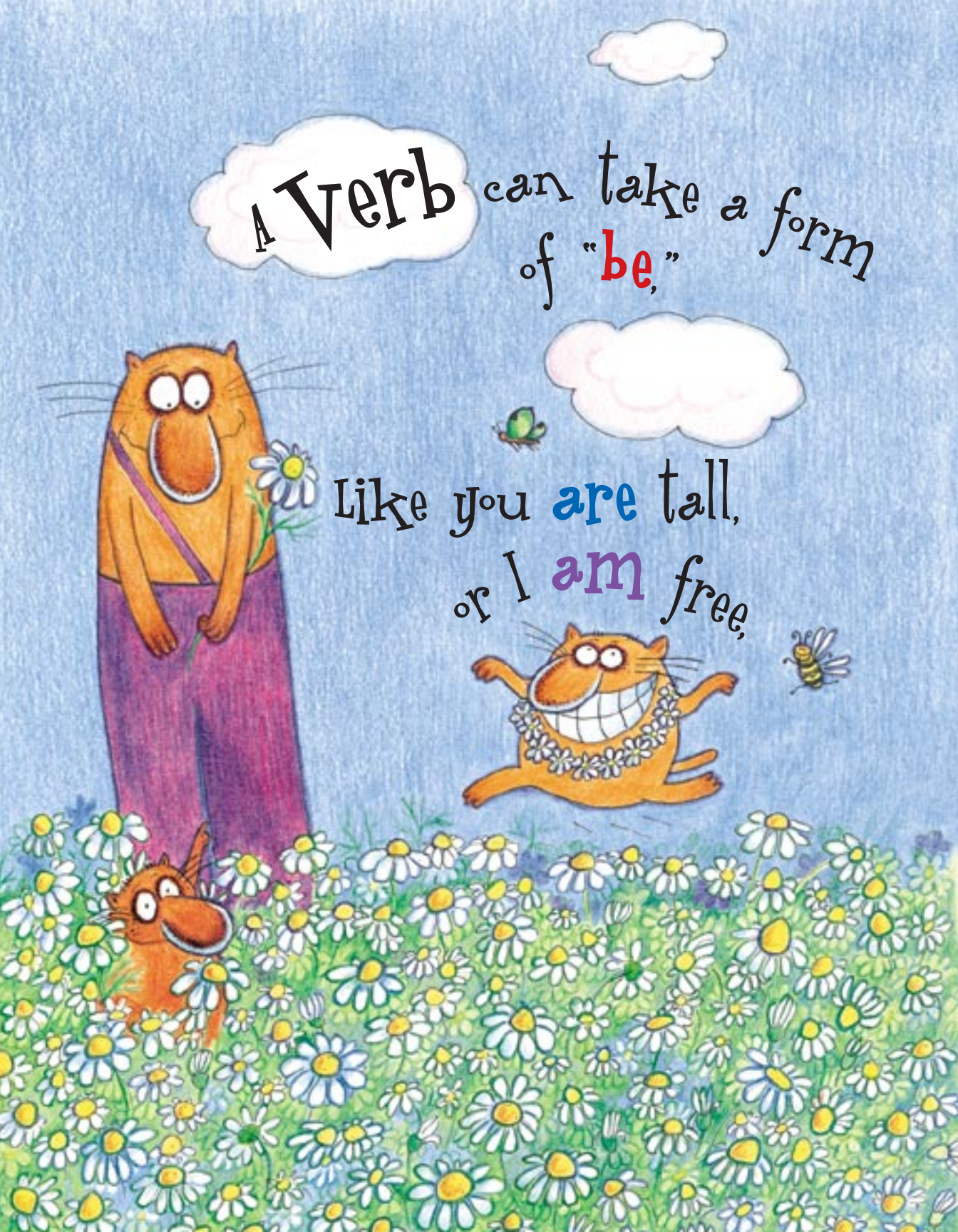
Sew a

sleeve,



You'll use a **Verb** for each of these.




A Verb can take a form of "be,"
Like you are tall,
or I am free,

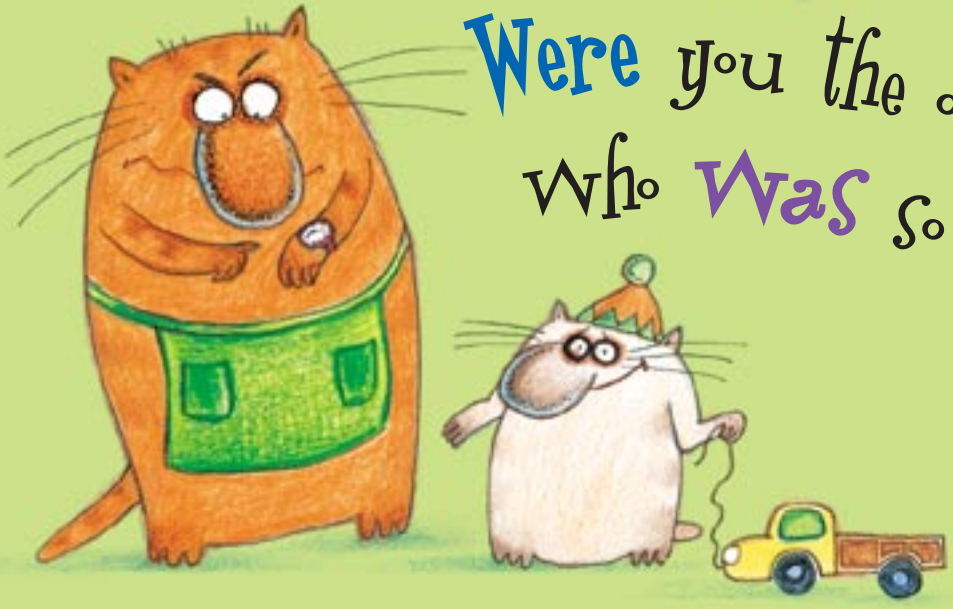


That is fun,

It's been great,



Were you the one who was so late?

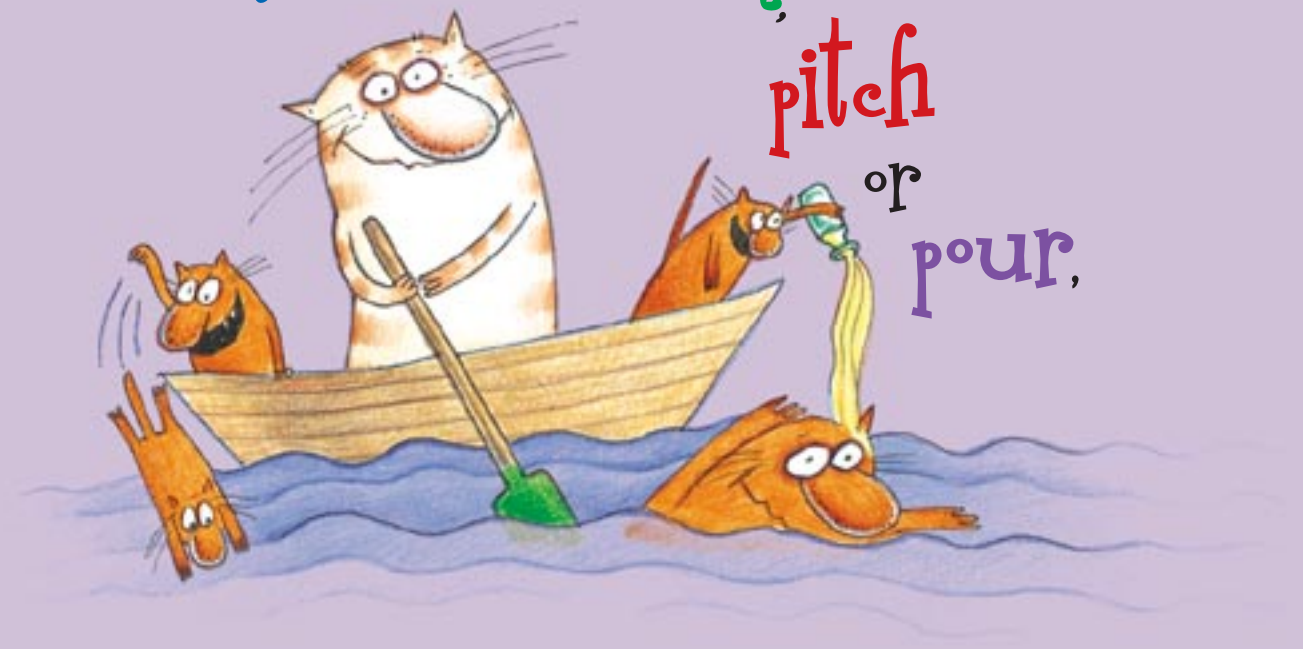


Punt or pass or shoot or score,



swim or paddle,

pitch or pour,





Jog
or
juggle,



jig or leap,







Verbs can tire
you out a heap.

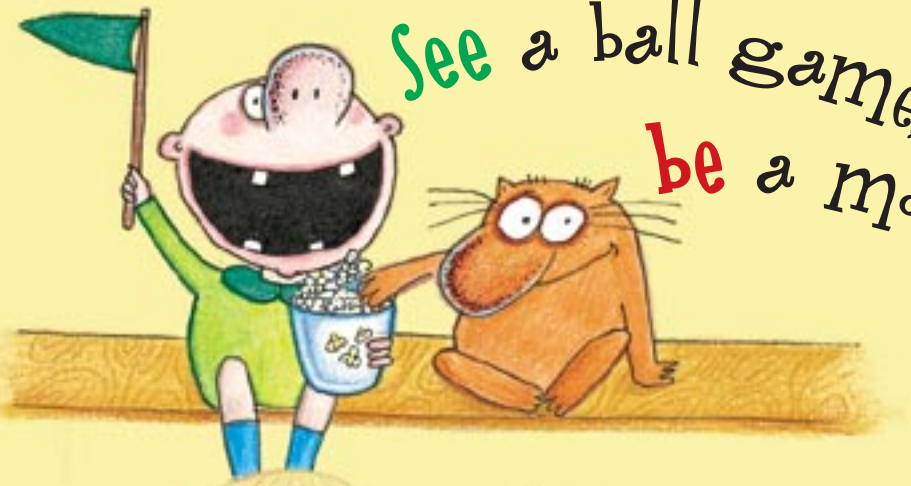


You can crawl or fall

or pet

your pooch,





See a ball game,

be a mooch.

Jump and slump



and

play it cool,





Hunt

and hike



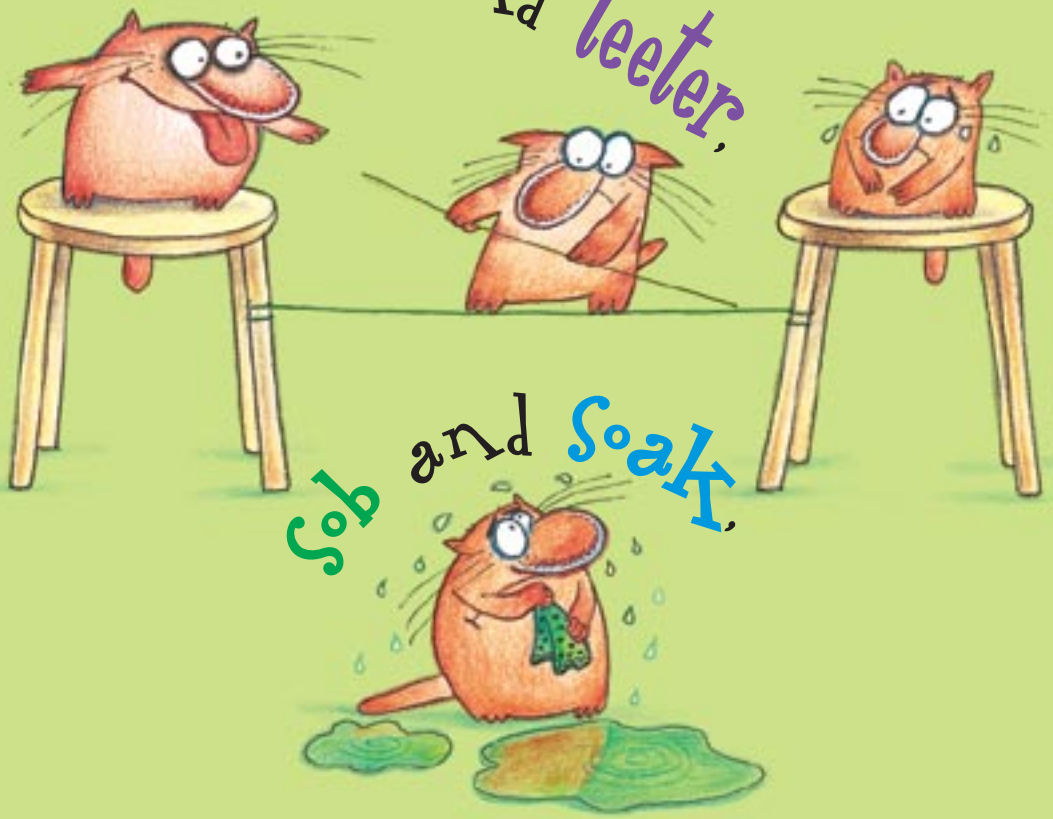


and bike to school.

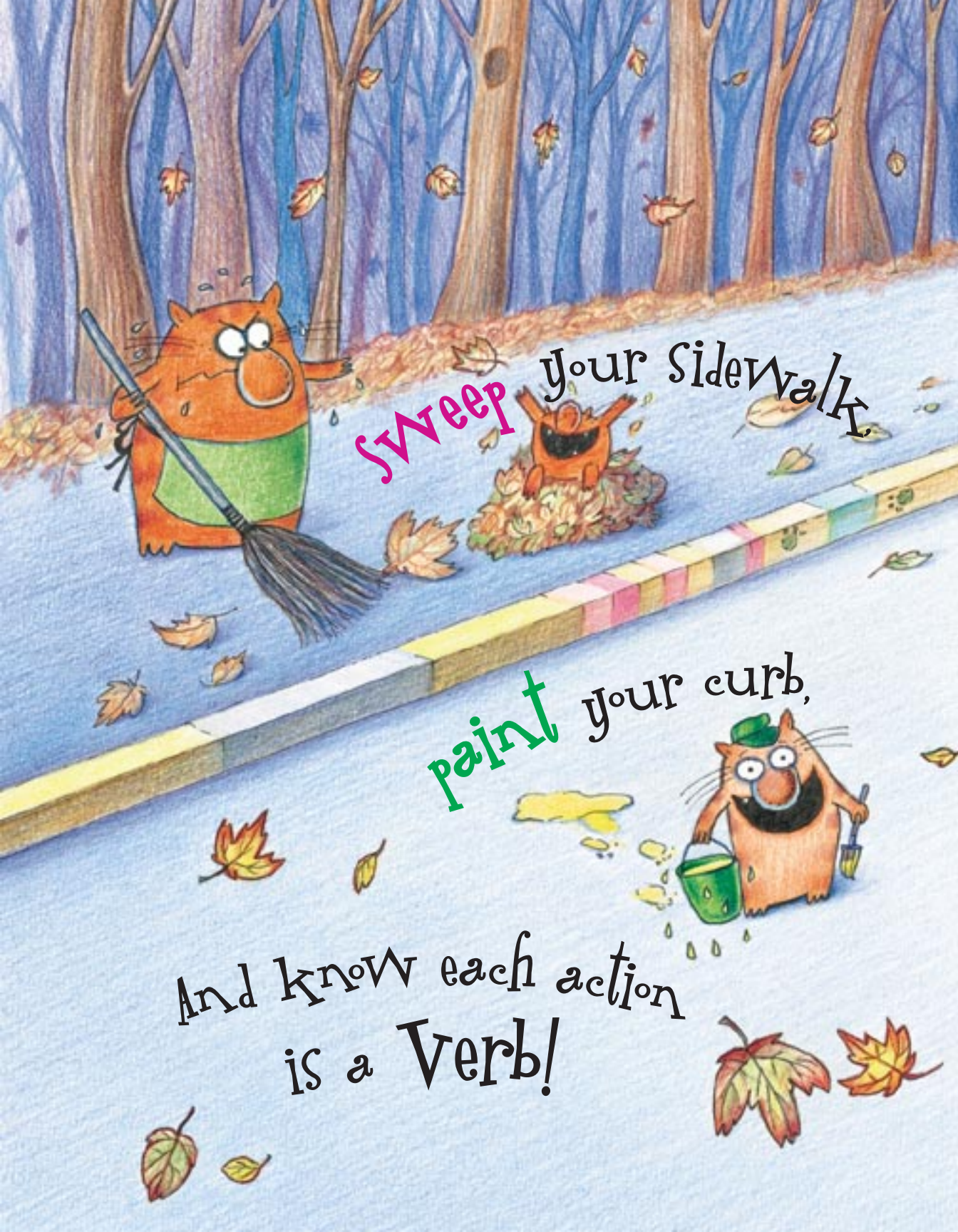
So pick and fiddle, strum and stroke,



Tease and teeter,



Sob and soak.


sweep your sidewalk,
paint your curb,
And know each action
is a Verb!

Have and has belong here too.



Like
"I have
green eyes,



she
has
blue."



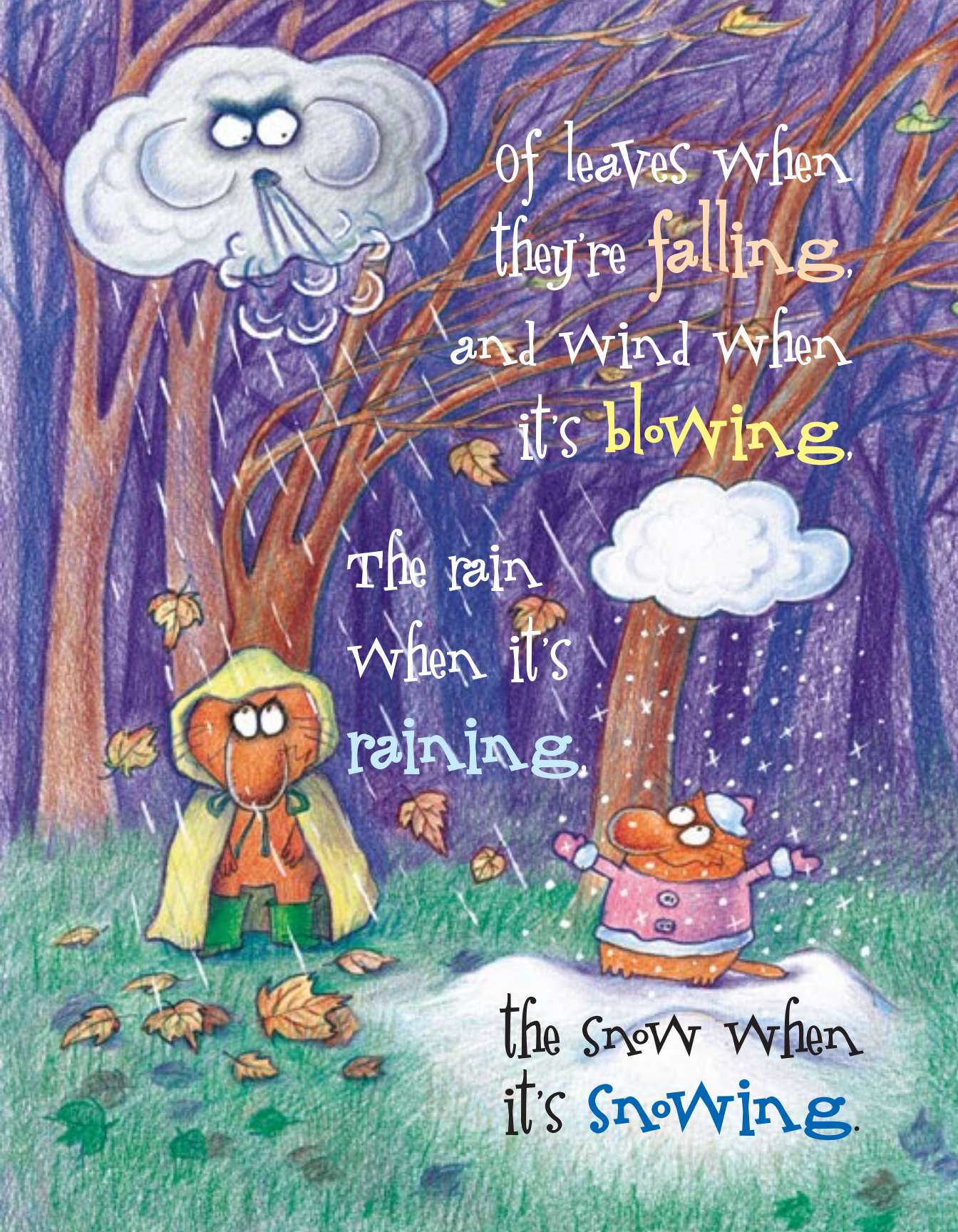


Or "Mindy **has** a mini mutt."

These **Verbs** can tell us Who's got What!




Verbs tell of ships cruising,
dogs snoozing, slime oozing,
They tell of spies spying,
guys trying and losing,


of leaves when
they're falling,
and wind when
it's blowing,
The rain
when it's
raining,
the snow when
it's snowing.

They tell us of dogs
that are barking or sleeping,



of cars that are racing,
or merely beep-beeping.



of planes that
are flying,



and trains choo-choo-chooing,

Aunt Edna
"oh-Hi-ing,"



and Mom
"Toodle-ooing"—



of corn that is popping,



and singers doo-wopping,

of folks that
are sweeping,



and afterwards, mopping.

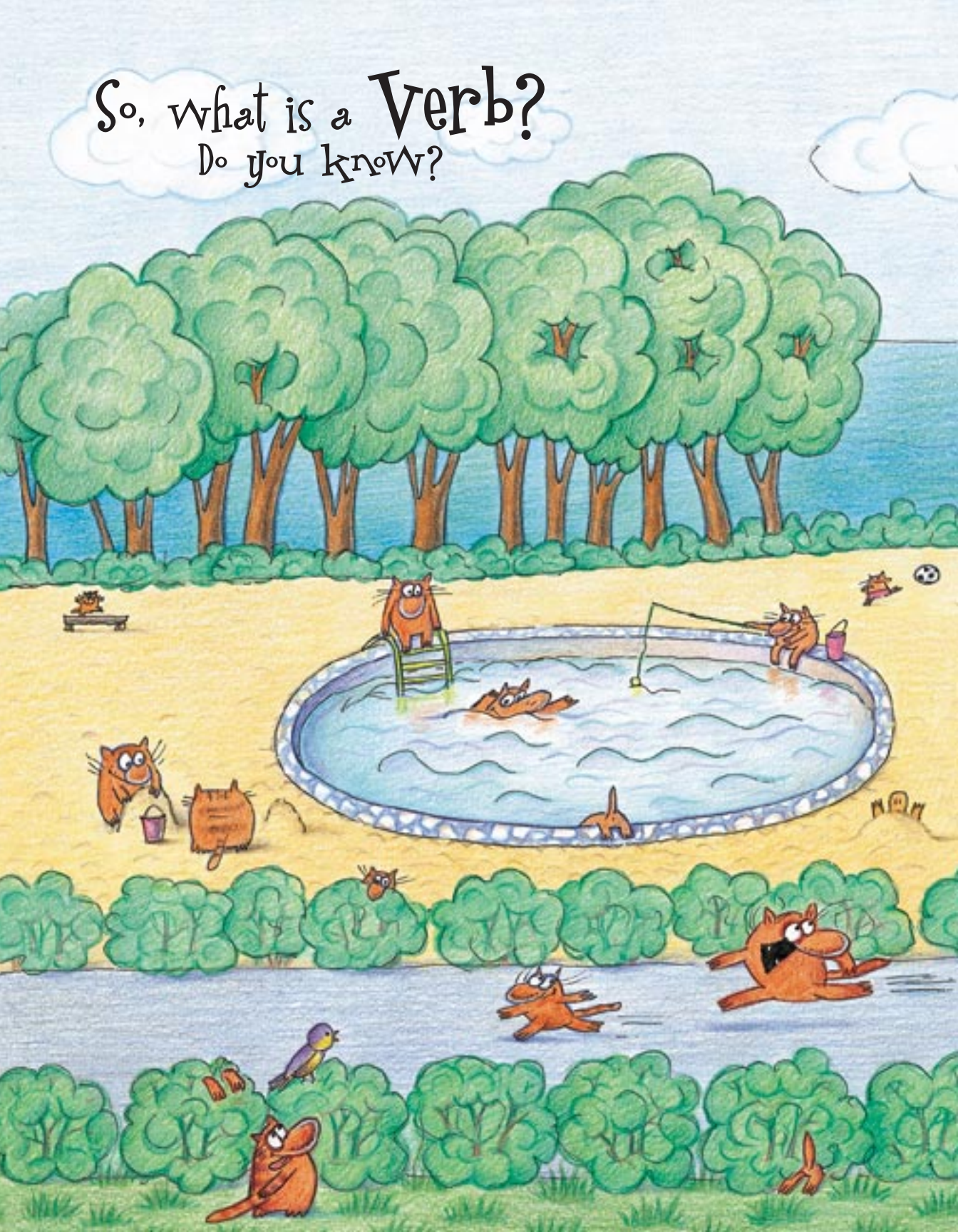


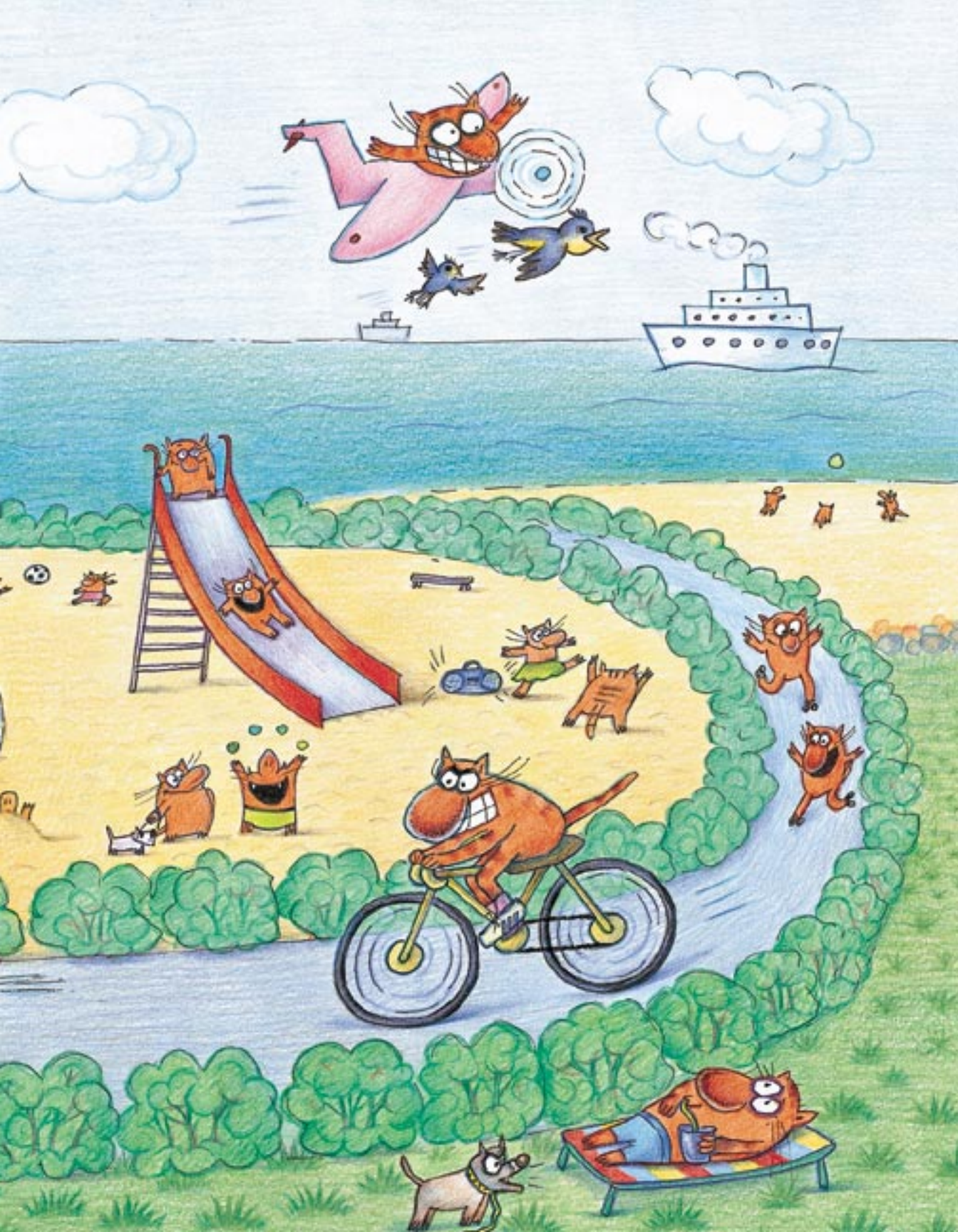
So, whether it's
dangerous,
dull, or superb,

Each sentence, you see,
simply must have a Verb!



So, what is a **Verb**?
Do you know?





About the Author & Illustrator

Brian P. Cleary is the author of several other picture books, including A Mink, a Fink, a Skating Rink: What Is a Noun? and Hairy, Scary, Ordinary: What Is an Adjective? He lives in Cleveland, Ohio.

Jenya Prosmitsky grew up and studied art in Chisinau, Moldova, and lives in Minneapolis. Her two cats, Henry and Freddy, were vital to her illustrations for this book and the other Words Are Categorical books.

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